

Chapter 1 : The "Obvious" Lessons of the Vietnam War | The American Conservative

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These years were marked by massive poverty, hunger and oppression that led to a great wave of militancy amongst the Greek workers, peasants and youth. However, due to the mistakes of the leaders of the Communist Party and the Stalinist bureaucracy, the Revolutionary movement that defeated the Nazis was brutally crushed and resulted in the darkest years of Greek history - the Greek civil war. The crisis of and its aftermath have brought back to the surface the memory of these events to remind us about the importance of revolutionary leadership. From Metaxa Dictatorship to Fascist Occupation Ioannis Metaxas In , Greece was a country of 8 million on an economic rebound after the world crash of Its Communist Party had , members with an industrial base. Since its formation in , the Communist Party had more than doubled, with an industrial base of more than 60, In , with the Metaxa dictatorship, a series of repressive anti-communist laws pushed the then formidable party underground just over a decade after its birth. In , the Nazis invaded and the Greek army fully capitulated serving as a repressive apparatus carrying out the will of the Nazi leadership. This period was one of total strangulation of the Greek working class, leaving masses dying in the streets of Athens. The Greek ruling class split into two camps: This period of power jockeying saw no end to spying, intrigues crossing and double-crossing. In this way the three-headed monster of capitalist oppression was created: All were united against their common enemy: They found it very easy to negotiate and work collectively - despite their differences - when it came to killing communists or putting them in jail. The position of the Communists on the War At the same time, the leadership of the CP that was created from members of the old committee after their years in exile and prison, were split in their opinions on how they should fight. Some believed there needed to be a co-operation with the Metaxa dictatorship to fight the Italians and later on jumped into a co-operation with the British against the Nazis. Those who rejected this policy believed that joining the British imperialist war was not of any concern to the people or the communists, so they should not participate. But our attitude towards war is fundamentally different from that of the bourgeois pacifists supporters and advocates of peace and of the anarchists. We differ from the former in that we understand the inevitable connection between wars and the class struggle within the country; we understand that war cannot be abolished unless classes are abolished and Socialism is created; and we also differ in that we fully regard civil wars, i. Under the conditions of the 20th century, these same productive forces had become fetters on the development of society; the nation state had outlived its role and communists could support no war on the basis of nationalism, apart from national liberation wars of the colonies towards their colonisers. Instead, drawing the metaphor of two robbers fighting, he advocated that the conflict should be used to smash both. In their struggle, they were also able to stop Greek recruitment into the German army, and gain an increase in bread rations to Greeks living in the cities. Mainly comprised of Nazi sympathisers, extreme right wingers and elements from the centre-right, these groups aimed at smashing the Communists and the front they had created in the areas of Liberated Greece. The following year, they had secured most of the Peloponnese. In March , they set up local autonomies and had national elections where men and women over 17 years old were eligible to vote. Their main aim was to establish a new system for solving the socio-political problems of the country that were no longer dictated from the top but by the workers and peasants. The element of localisation was still very present. Decisions made from the central authorities of EAM were not properly communicated or established in the different areas where EAM was in power. The information coming from the cities rarely reached the mountains and the villages under the forces of the resistance, almost as if they were two separate countries. The degree of local decision making was shown in how little control the CP leadership had in these places later on. Radicalisation on the ground and conservatism on the top Even the most conservative layers of the country became radicalised and inspired by EAM due to the great hunger and misery they experienced under the German occupation and the war. People had also started doubting the pre-war political situation in

Greece, its legitimacy and its perspectives. The youth were trying to convince the wider public of a need for a new political system, where no corrupt elements would have a place. Most of the youth were on the side of the Left at that time. The cruelty of the occupation gave them a degree of courage and honesty that people outside Greece found difficult to comprehend. There was a great confusion of ideas at the time. People from the Right would call for socialism; talking about a system where the monarchy and socialism could co-exist. Everyone had equated the term socialism with social justice, but rarely would anyone pin down and really explain what they meant by the use of the word. The communists were split in two blocs. One would say that socialism would come after national liberation, whereas the other bloc was more keen to build relationships with the British. The CP leadership was acting in a schizophrenic manner, on the one hand being ultra-left and sectarian and on the other calling for National Unity. They were powerless when it came to influence EAM and ELAS and were already doubting their activities, even being afraid of what these were capable of doing. When the Comintern was dissolved, Stalin advised the Greek communists to co-operate with the British. The seeds of this popular movement of EAM were to be found in the towns and villages of the rural parts of Greece. Before the war, the problem of land reform had not been addressed; the villages were isolated without welfare; the nearest hospitals and courts were very far away with no roads connecting them. In , the dictatorship of Metaxa put an end to all these initiatives. In when there was a vacuum of political leadership and authority, the memory of this collective cooperation they had had naturally returned in these areas. In a region of different villages in the Central parts of Greece, a movement of peasants became popular in with its leader coming closer to the Communist Party and eventually becoming a member. The Metaxa dictatorship was hated by the peasants, especially due to a law that it passed restricting the rights of shepherds to take their sheep to graze outside their farms. In , Beikos, the young communist who was leading that movement, was helping other communities tackle their lack of food and supplies. As soon as the CP told him and his comrades to spread the message about EAM, the people from these localities welcomed the idea and many of them joined the forces. Another famous figure among the partisans was Aris Velouchiotis, one of the greatest, most inspiring comrades involved in EAM who to this day still sends shivers down the backs of communists and sympathisers of the left in Greece. His radicalism inspired several people in the rural areas and terrified the Greek State as well as the leadership of the Communist Party. During the occupation years he helped several communities set up their own local authorities - always run democratically by the people. As soon as these communities developed they realised the need for reforms that went beyond the small problems of the village. The question of land reform was still pressing and they had to take action against the laws restricting agricultural life that had been imposed by Metaxa and were still being applied. Beikos realised that there had to be a line decided upon by EAM on these matters. They decided to not deal with the question of land reform, since, as they said, this would drive away the more wealthy members that they had, which included several landowners! In that was the situation in most, if not all, of the areas of Liberated Greece. An embryonic Soviet State! They were using the common language, whereas lawyers of the official courts at the time were speaking in old-style formal Greek that the peasants could not understand. The juries were elected by the people of the community. One of the court cases recorded has to do with ELAS criticising some men of a village that were not present when there was a call to help with transporting arms from one village to the other. Usually when the ELAS fighters arrived they would set off a siren to call for help from the people in the community to carry the arms to the next village. Usually only women would show up because men found it demeaning. Many men were prosecuted for that and were taken to court. In the cities, the years were marked by big general strikes and demonstrations where hundreds of people were killed by the police and the Germans. People would still come out onto the streets even after experiencing all this violence and they would keep marching heroically forward as people around them were shot dead! ELAS in numbers, relative to the size of the population, was a much bigger army even than the Red Army in The bureaucracy of the USSR, and its political line, was directly influencing a party as young as the Communist Party at the time. Popular Fronts were made up of bourgeois and liberal imperialist elements working with the CP in a common fight against the Nazis. That was explained as being in line with the theory of revolution by stages that the Stalinist bureaucracy upheld at the time. Only the seizure of power by the proletariat and a world socialist revolution can save humanity from

permanent catastrophe, caused by the existence of the modern capitalist system. What capitalism is passing through today is nothing other than its death throes. The collapse of capitalism is inevitable. They explained how the leaders of Social Democracy and the Trade Unions were lagging far behind the objective situation, thinking that they could still negotiate with the employers in times of such deep crisis. The aim is to attack the radicalised working class and destroy any possibility of a revolution. They must be at the head of the working class in the fight against the fascist gangs, must be extremely active in setting up united fronts on the question and must make use of illegal methods of organisation. They explained that by creating the Popular Fronts they were not dealing with the real root of the problem which is capitalism, but actually strengthened it. It is an illusion to think that uniting with the capitalist class will solve the problems that actually lead to war because these problems are the result of the decline and the contradictions of capitalism; its role as a break to development. Communists should thus use the war to show that it is a symptom of decline and to fight for a new world order, to fight for socialism. By offering unity in action, while defending the need to overthrow capitalism, this approach aids the radicalisation of the working class and gives them the experience and the tools they need to fight for a radical change. It unites the workers in a determined fight against their own governments and against the capitalist system once and for all. The role of British imperialism in the game of betrayals! The truth is that the Soviet bureaucracy was not interested in Greece. They were trying to defend their own interests in the map of the World powers at the time and the British needed Greece under their own influence. The line of the Popular Front, combined with the theory of stages and the call for bourgeois democracy to be established in Greece, was a tactic of defeat of the CP leadership. They were afraid that after the war was won, Greece would come under the influence of EAM and ELAS and the imperialists would lose control of one of the most geopolitically important countries in Europe. Keeping Greece under their sphere of influence meant that they had a passage to Asia, the Suez canal and Egypt. The fear of socialism being established also led them to understand that needed to work with EAM and ELAS in order to hold them back from successful revolution. This was called the EDES and was a right-wing liberation front. Additionally, since the British were trying to install the old king as a means of influencing the country, EDES gradually became a royalist liberation front. Evidence shows that this group was co-ordinating with some of the German troops as well, making deals about which region each of them would have control over. That meant that they would hinder any serious radical developments within EAM and ELAS by either not sending rebel forces to places where they were needed or by criticising the initiatives of their best fighters such as Aris Velouchiotis, depicting them as ultra-left. What effectively happened with this agreement was that the powerful ELAS was subordinated to these two small liberation groups who were trying to gain power in Greece. People thought that this Alliance flowed from the traditions of the partisans in the mountains and were happy to welcome it. Once again, a law was proposed according to which the only people who could become politicians or judges had to have a University degree. Although, the CP leadership managed to suspend that law, they did not abolish it. In May, there was the Lebanon Conference which marked an important change in the tactics of the CP leadership.

Chapter 2 : NPR Choice page

The rest of this lesson will recount that popular Homeric version of the Trojan War and its main characters, but it is important to remember this is a work largely of fiction that approximates and.

Bayou Renaissance Man The idle musings of a former military man, former computer geek, medically retired pastor and now full-time writer. Contents guaranteed to offend the politically correct and anal-retentive from time to time. My approach to life is that it should be taken with a large helping of laughter, and sufficient firepower to keep it tamed! Army today and sheds light on what a war with a near-peer enemy—or an enemy sponsored by a near-peer—would look like. Russia has deployed a wide range of electronic warfare systems in Ukraine, using them to jam communications, locate headquarters and subsequently target them with long-range artillery. Army members grew up in an age worrying about the signals their antennas and radios produced. After visiting a battalion tactical operations center at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center in Hohenfels, Germany, a senior Ukrainian officer observed that the headquarters would not last long in eastern Ukraine. We have returned to an era where communications must be short and infrequent and tactical operations centers must run their antennas hundreds of meters away. Additionally, with a force largely reliant on GPS technology, it is time for soldiers to go back to being expert navigators using only a map and compass. Largely forgotten over the past 17 years, camouflage is back in vogue. With the proliferation of unmanned aerial vehicles that can serve as ISR platforms for artillery, an element spotted by a UAV may only have minutes to move before a rain of artillery fires falls. Ukrainian vehicles look like giant, mobile vegetation clusters, with camouflage netting put up if a vehicle is stopped for any length of time. NATO vehicles, by contrast, are too often operated on the assumption that speed alone provides sufficient security during movement, and netting often substandard is more slowly put up after stopping. It also helps to consider non-technological solutions to a seemingly technological problem. A few examples from Angola: Put human observers in the bush nearby, with scrambled satellite communications. A radio call that a flight of MiGs are taking off, and turning towards the area of operations, is as good as a radar display, and just as accurate. As a bonus, the observers can also direct artillery fire if you can get your cannon into range. The enemy has spent billions constructing a supply corridor from the coast, across hundreds of miles of trackless bush, to supply their forces operating against yours. A few limpet mines, strategically placed by frogmen on the hulls of Soviet and Cuban freighters, can sink an awful lot of weapons and electronics and other things before they move even one mile down the trail. Plot every significant terrain feature, know where they will have to go to get water, understand how terrain will affect their advance. In many cases, the human cost will make their troops very, very reluctant to follow orders, knowing that those orders are going to get a lot of them killed. He can only crap all over the area in the hope of getting lucky. This is expensive for him, and good for you. There are many time-honored lessons of war that probably have to be re-learned in our technologically sophisticated environment.

Chapter 3 : Greek Civil War: The Dekemvriana and the lessons for today

The war and the builders of the commonwealth
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The war and its lessons on liberty. Responsibility: by Annie Besant.

The First World War ended years in the past this month on November 11, , at 11 a. Nearly 20 million individuals had perished for the reason that battle started on July 28, Czarist Russia gave up in December Six months later, America had nonetheless not begun to deploy troops in any nice quantity. By summer time , hordes of American troopers started arriving in France in unimaginable numbers of as much as 10, doughboys a day. Anglo-American convoys started devastating German submarines. Nonetheless, World War I surprisingly ended with an armistice “ with German troops nonetheless effectively inside France and Belgium. Revolution was brewing in German cities again house. The three main Allied victors squabbled over peace phrases. By the time the formal Versailles Peace Conference started in January , tens of millions of troopers had gone house. Failed Armistice The Allied victors have been in disarray. Wilson was idolized when he arrived in France for peace talks in December “ and was hated for being self-righteous when he left six months later. The Treaty of Versailles proved a catastrophe, directly too harsh and too comfortable. Its phrases have been far much less punitive than these the victorious Allies would later dictate to Germany after World War II. Earlier, Germany itself had demanded more durable concessions from a defeated France in and Russia in In the top, the Allies proved unforgiving to a defeated Germany within the summary however not robust sufficient within the concrete. One ironic end result was that the victorious however exhausted Allies introduced to the world that they by no means wished to go to battle once more. Meanwhile, the defeated and humiliated Germans appeared all too desirous to struggle once more quickly to overturn the decision of The consequence was a far bloodier battle that adopted simply 20 years later. What can we be taught from the failed armistice of ? More Difficult Than War Keeping the peace is typically much more troublesome than successful a battle. For an enemy to simply accept defeat, it have to be compelled to know why it misplaced, undergo the implications of its aggressions “ and solely then be proven magnanimity and given assist to rebuild. Losers of a battle can not choose and select when to stop preventing in enemy territory. Had the Allies continued their offensives within the fall of and invaded Germany, the peace that adopted may need extra intently resembled the unconditional give up and agreements that ended WWII, resulting in excess of simply 20 years of subsequent European calm. Germany at present dominates Europe, simply because it did in , and European peace is maintained solely when Germany channels its huge power and skills into financial, not army, dominance. Yet even at the moment, on issues corresponding to unlawful immigration, overdue loans, Brexit and commerce surpluses, Germany tends to agitate its allies. It can also be at all times unwise to underestimate a peaceable America. But as a result of the peace failed, we now use Roman numerals to rely world wars. And few consider that when the taking pictures stops, the battle is essentially over.

Chapter 4 : World War I Ended Years Ago, It's Lessons Continue: Victor Davis Hanson - The Entrepreneur

The Greek Civil War began in as the Germans left the country. Britain and America supported the government against local Communists. Very brutal on both sides, it was an early conflict of the.

Scott Pelley is the correspondent. The war began with the murders of three teenage boys. By the time it was over, more than children were dead. For 50 days, this past summer, Israel and the Palestinians of Gaza fought their bloodiest war since And some of the images of the battle in our story tonight are hard to watch. Where the decades of suffering go from here depends not so much on a thousand threads of tangled talks but on one question that comes before all others. Can peace be taught to children who have learned only the lesson of war? The first boy to die was wrapped in the grief of Israel. In June, the night his mother sat up worrying, year-old Naftali Fraenkel and two friends were kidnapped, and later, shot by Palestinian terrorists. Rachele Fraenkel said the eulogy at a national service. The next day, Israeli terrorists kidnapped a Palestinian boy. Mohammad Abu Khdeir was burned alive. Within days, it was war. And not in 50 years were so many children about to die in the Holy Land. Palestinian rockets, plentiful but unguided, punched wildly into Israel, inflicting fear, but limited damage. Israel struck Gaza with digital domination, blasting neighborhoods into seismic collapse. We flew a drone over part of Gaza to comprehend the scale. The Palestinian Health Ministry says civilian deaths in Gaza came to 1, Six civilians were killed in Israel during the battle. Israel lost one child, Gaza lost more than Scott Anderson cares for a quarter million children in Gaza in schools. After 21 years in the U. Army he became deputy director of the U. Relief and Works Agency which has sustained Gaza with schools, homes, jobs and food for seven decades. What is it like to be a child in Gaza? People have lost their family members. Their homes have been destroyed. Schools have been destroyed. That takes a toll on children. During the war, his classrooms became kitchens and shelters for more than half a million Gazans. Some of the U. This conflict is probably the most widely talked about, widely written about, and least understood conflict in history. In , Gazans elected a government led by Hamas which the U. Hamas burrowed tunnels under the blockade for trade and terror. This summer, Hamas attacked Israel to lift the blockade and Israel invaded Gaza to destroy the tunnels. Sixty-six Israeli soldiers were killed. But in the end, as usual, nothing really changed. In Israel, air raid sirens are as familiar to children as the lunch bell. In Gaza, a new generation is rising on the ruin of the last. And neither child knows the other. Does it seem strange that I would work in Gaza and in Israel too? Jim Gordon is an American psychiatrist working both sides. These Israeli kids spent the war scrambling for shelter. Gordon has another way in. Draw yourself with your biggest problem. What ever that means to you. OK, do you understand? They come in often frozen but then they do the drawing and the drawing is of a destroyed house, of bloody bodies in the street. Only a few Hamas rockets were lethal, but 3, were launched and in Israel today their arc, on paper, hits targets of the imagination -- a home destroyed, the wounded in an ambulance. Anybody that lives under missiles lives in terror. And the parts of the brain that are concerned with thoughtful decision-making, with compassion for others, are shut down. Gordon just five miles away, in Gaza. The kids in Gaza are wearing down the same red crayons. Azar Jendia, nine years old, shared her pictures with us. This is the building where my father was bombed, it collapsed on my father and two uncles. Show me the next picture. I drew myself inside a grave, a martyr next to my father. Why was I spared? After sketching their problem, they picture a solution. This came from a 9-year-old boy. The solution to this pain and this loss is that he wants himself to become a martyr, a suicide bomber. And so what we see here is a suicide belt and you see it around his waist. Who was he going to bomb? Going to bomb Israelis. Going to bomb the people who killed his father. That answer to, "What do you want to be when you grow up? About two million people live in Gaza and it turns out about half of them are under the age of A local university did a survey after the war and found that 20 percent of the kids witnessed a death in their family. Thirty-five percent saw destruction at or near their home and 40 percent are suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. We found these children in the remains of their home. Before the blockade Audha was a successful contractor. He built this home, in the Arab way, to hold all of his generations. His five sons lived here with their families. Fifty relatives in all, fled before the crosshairs settled and a missile vaulted

from a helicopter. Our suffering is worse. Can we not have a home to live in? What is it like for the children to be living here? He told us, things are worse after the war than during the war. They wake up in the middle of the night horrified. Gordon told us, with enough time, about 80 percent can see beyond war. Azar, who colored herself dead, came through the therapy with a dream. My wish is to become a heart doctor because after the war, a lot of people had heart problems so I want to treat them. It looks like there are many people who need your help. How did you start to feel better? How did you get from the first picture to the last picture? The doctors helped me change, helped with my problems and helped get the sadness out of my heart. While many neighborhoods were ground to powder, much of Gaza City is alive again and a recent poll shows that Hamas is still favored by a slim majority. What are the needs here right now? The number one need is to find a way to lift the blockade and restore economic opportunity here in Gaza. One of the things that you said during the war was that maybe we can teach our children that we want to live in peace. How do you go about doing that? I have no easy answer for that. My children, their brother was murdered by a Hamas terrorist. And I make a point of not doing that. A lot of people would forgive you I want my children believing in a world that has a lot of good in it. The price paid in a year conflict is inherited as a debt, one generation to the next. The summer combat ended as it always does. Both sides buried their children and claimed victory.

Chapter 5 : The Lesson of War - CBS News

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Chapter 6 : Bayou Renaissance Man: The war in Ukraine and its lessons

Hostilities resumed and Athens eventually embarked on an expedition to take the Greek city-state of Syracuse in Sicily, suffering one of its most disastrous defeats during the entire war.